

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Kansas Rock Art

and/or common Petroglyphs and Pictographs in Kansas

## 2. Location

street &amp; number N/A

☒ not for publication

city, town N/A

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state

Kansas

code

20

county

N/A

code N/A

## 3. Classification

## Category

☐ district☐ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

## Ownership

☐ public☐ private☒ both

## Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered

thematic group N/A

## Status

☐ occupied☒ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## Present Use

☒ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☒ other: Reservoir

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street &amp; number N/A

city, town N/A

N/A vicinity of

state

N/A

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

(see continuation sheet)

street &amp; number N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Petroglyph Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Kansas State Historical Society

city, town

Topeka

state

Kansas 66612

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### Summary

This nomination includes 30 American Indian rock art sites located in the state of Kansas. The 29 petroglyph sites and one pictograph site were recorded during a state-wide survey to locate rock art sites. Two of the petroglyph sites, 14EW1 and 14RC10, are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of the sites are located in four counties in the central part of the state. Smaller numbers are located in southeast and southwestern Kansas. These sites have examples of anthropomorphic figures and human-like forms, animals and animal-like forms, geometric designs, straight lines and grooves. Several styles of anthropomorphic petroglyphs have been recognized. Previous analysis of a fraction of this rock art indicates it is the product of Indian tribes inhabiting Kansas during the protohistoric and historic periods of circa A.D. 1541 to A.D. 1870; however the majority of the petroglyphs and the pictograph site have not been analyzed.

#### Theme of the Nomination

This nomination includes one pictograph and 29 petroglyph sites located in nine Kansas counties. The terms pictograph and petroglyph have been used differently by several researchers to refer to the same phenomena (Swartz 1981). The term petroglyph is used here to refer to figures or designs cut into rock, while pictograph refers to figures or designs painted on rock. Collectively petroglyphs and pictographs have been referred to as rock art (Heizer and Baumhoff 1962, Grant 1967, Wellman 1979). The sites included in this nomination were recorded in a state-wide survey to locate American Indian rock art sites. The analysis of these surviving examples of pictographs and petroglyphs can contribute to our understanding of the aboriginal occupation of Kansas and the Great Plains.

#### Background Information and Survey Methodology

Prior to a survey sponsored by the Historic Preservation Department, of the Kansas State Historical Society, ten references were available for Kansas rock art consisting of general descriptions of petroglyph sites and interpretations of selected glyphs. The most comprehensive among published reports was that of Wedel (1959) which briefly described petroglyphs from 10 sites located in different parts of the state. An unpublished regional study by Horr and Johnson (1957) described 10 sites in central Kansas and the authors established the first stylistic categories for Kansas petroglyphs.

Interpretation has focused on petroglyphs, as cultural/chronological indicators. Howard (1964) identified selected petroglyphs found in rockshelters at Toronto

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

lake as examples from protohistoric Wichita groups, circa A.D. 1500 to A. D. 1700. This identification was based on body and facial decoration shown on the glyphs and the presence of Great Bend Aspect artifacts found in the shelters. Smith (1949) and Witty (1962) identified equestrian petroglyphs found at Kanopolis and Wilson lakes as historic based upon the chronological diffusion of the horse culture among Plains Indian tribes. Using ethnographic data, Wedel (1969) identified a petroglyph in Rice county as possibly depicting a warrior from an early 17th century Plains Apache group called the Escanxague by the Spanish. In addition to these professional evaluations amateur reports also exist. Richards (1956) briefly described eight sites in central Kansas and Janzen (1965) described a site in Ellsworth county and interpreted some of the glyphs there as Spanish in origin.

Many of the sites discussed in the literature cited above were never formally recorded. Other petroglyph site locations were on file at the Kansas State Historical Society that had never been systematically recorded. In addition a file of informants with knowledge of rock art site locations had accumulated at the Society, but these people had never been interviewed.

The Kansas Petroglyph Survey, conducted for a 12 month period in 1979 and 1980 was designed as an informant/interview survey. Mr. Brian O'Neill a temporary employee of the Historic Preservation Department was the surveyor. The goals of the project were to revisit known sites and record new ones using a consistent method. Time, budgetary constraints and the relatively large areas of outcropping rocks in some portions of the state limited pedestrian survey of new areas to the vicinity of known sites. Sites were primarily recorded by a series of black and white photographs coupled with color slides. In addition some informants had black and white photographs and color slides of sites taken in past years. These were duplicated to provide a partial photographic record for 18 of the sites in this nomination.

Results of the Survey

The nomination includes one pictograph and 29 petroglyph sites listed in the table below:

<u>County</u>	<u>Site Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
Comanche	14CM305	Big Gyp Cave (Pictograph)
Ellsworth	14EW1	Indian Hill
	14EW14	Elm Creek

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

<u>County</u>	<u>Site Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ellsworth	14EW17	Ward
	14EW33	Cave Hollow
	14EW303	Haystack Mound
	14EW304	Red Rock Canyon
	14EW401	Katzenmeier
	14EW403	Owl's Nest
	14EW404	
	14EW405	
	14EW406	
Greenwood	14GR320	Indian Spring
Kiowa	14KW301	Star
	14KW302	Roth
Lincoln	14LC306	Hildebrandt
Montgomery	14MY1	Treaty Rocks
	14MY365	
	14MY1320	
	14MY1385	Lookout Station
Ottawa	14OT4	
Rice	14RC10	Peverley
	14RC11	
Russell	14RU5	Paradise Creek
	14RU10	Circle Rock
	14RU313	Russell
	14RU314	Haberer
	14RU315	Hamp
	14RU316	Purma
	14RU324	S & S Ranch



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

O'Neill found that 12 previously recorded sites had been destroyed by reservoir construction or severely damaged by weathering and vandalism, and these are not included in the nomination. Four sites, 14C04, 14RU304, 14SA304, and 14W0226 were not relocated and they are also excluded. Since the survey was of necessity limited to an informant/interview method, with limited survey of previously unsurveyed areas, additional sites may be discovered in the future.

The Indian Hill site, 14EW1, listed on the National Register of Historic Places was not revisited by O'Neill since a Memorandum of Agreement among the Kansas City District, the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to record the site using stereophotogrammetry was being proposed at the time of the survey. The Memorandum of Agreement has since been signed, however recordation of the site has not been completed.

The Peverley site, 14RC10, included within the Little River Archeological District listed on the National Register was revisited and recorded.

The attached site forms and sketches provide details about individual sites, while the following description is adapted from O'Neill's 1980 survey report.

Site Locations

A major factor determining the regional locations of petroglyph sites within the state is the exposure of stone of suitable size and consistency to serve as a medium for this form of rock art. The majority of the petroglyph sites, 22 of 29 sites, are located in the Smoky Hills region, a strip of country 20 to 40 miles wide along the eastern edge of the Dissected High Plains physiographic division (Shoewe 1949: 307-309). The character of the topography in this region has been determined by erosion of the Dakota sandstone and many potential rock art locations can be found there. All or part of Ellsworth, Lincoln, Ottawa, Rice, and Russell counties are located within the Smoky Hills.

In other parts of the state suitable outcropping rocks are limited. The two sites in Kiowa county are found on sandstone lenses included with the Kiowa shale (Latta 1947, Plate 1), which outcrops only in the southeastern third of the county. In southeastern Kansas Pennsylvanian age limestones and shales, some of them containing sandstones of varying thickness outcrop in relatively narrow bands forming east-facing escarpments across the region

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

(Moore 1949). The sites in Greenwood and Montgomery counties are found on exposures of Pennsylvanian sandstones.

Over half of the petroglyph sites in the Smoky Hills are located on the headwaters or along intermittent tributaries to the major streams of the region. Four sites are located along creeks with live water, while five are located along rivers. Six sites are associated with springs.

Small caves and rockshelters occur in the region and three sites are found near these features. One site, 14EW33, is found at a naturally formed tunnel in a sandstone promontory.

The rock art sites in other regions of the state are also associated with similar topographic and hydrologic features except for two sites, 14MY1 and 14MY1385, in Montgomery county. These sites are located within a mile of each other on a ridgetop.

Petroglyph Sites

The 29 petroglyph sites included in the nomination vary in size and the numbers of glyphs present at each. For example, the Katzenmeier site, 14EW401, in Ellsworth county has 67 petroglyphs, some superimposed on each other, covering approximately 8 square meters of rock outcrop, while the petroglyphs of the S and S Ranch site, 14RU324, in Russell county consist of five individual glyphs within an approximate one square meter area of rock outcrop. Most of the sites are small: 15 sites have glyphs that cover an area of approximately one square meter at each site, while eight others vary in size from two to three square meters each. The Ward site, 14EW17, and the Russell site, 14RU313, are composed of a series of panels each from one to two meters square in size. The Indian Hill, Katzenmeier and Cave Hollow sites are largest in terms of area and numbers of petroglyphs of all sites included in the nomination. No one site, however, contains the complete range of petroglyphs to be found within the state.

A Description of the Petroglyphs

Two techniques were used to produce petroglyphs in Kansas. The majority of the glyphs in the Smoky Hills region and those in Kiowa and Greenwood counties were created by incising lines into the stone producing a figure or design in outline form. The majority of the glyphs in Montgomery county were produced by removing the stone from within the outline, creating a design or figure hollowed into the rock. However, isolated examples of outlined figures are found in the Montgomery county petroglyphs and intaglio glyphs are

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

found in the Smoky Hills region.

These petroglyphs can be categorized as straight lines and grooves, geometric designs, representations of animals or animal-like forms and representations of humans and human-like forms.

Anthropomorphic glyphs were depicted in 12 styles, but 91% of all figures can be placed into only five stylistic categories. All styles were done in simple outline form, although a small percentage (6%) have additional incised lines, perhaps representing body painting, tattooing or forms of dress. All anthropomorphic glyphs, except for two, show the human form in frontal view and 70% of them are figures with upraised arms bent at the elbow.

Important elements in the styles of anthropomorphic glyphs are the shapes of the torso and legs. The major styles have figures with rectangular bodies, while minor styles have bodies that are "x"-shaped, triangular or circular. Four styles, containing 85% of the anthropomorphic glyphs, have rectangular bodies and are differentiated by the indications of legs. Style A comprising 29% of the glyphs has thick triangular legs resembling the shape of a "w". The next largest category, Style B with 28% of the glyphs, has stick legs that are a continuation of lines that form the torso; however no crotch is indicated. Style C also has stick legs and the crotch on these glyphs is indicated by a straight horizontal line closing the rectangular body. 17% of the glyphs are of this style. Style D, comprising of 11% of the glyphs, has legs indicated in a more realistic fashion. Each leg consists of two lines varying in width to indicate thighs and calves.

Hands and feet are usually omitted from anthropomorphic petroglyphs. Heads are round or oval-shaped and facial features, when indicated, consist of eyes and mouth. Feathers, or hair, in the form of straight lines radiating from the top of the head are found on nine glyphs, while five others are shown with bison-cap headdresses. Six anthropomorphic glyphs are depicted holding spears, two have bows and two hold rifles. One figure at the S & S Ranch site appears to be wearing a peace medal. Six glyphs are pierced with petroglyph arrows.

Human footprints are found at two of the sites included in the nomination. Site 14MY365 in Montgomery county has four of these glyphs, while the Katzenmeier site in Ellsworth has one.

Equestrian figures, totaling 15 glyphs, are found at nine sites. Three



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

styles of horses are depicted, but the combination of horse and rider is shown the same way in each style. Horses are drawn in profile, while the rider is shown in frontal view. Like anthropomorphic glyphs these equestrian figures are drawn in spare outline form. Geometric designs are inscribed on the flanks and forequarters of 6 of the horses. Three riders carry shields, two carry shields and spears and six carry spears.

One site, the S and S ranch site, has a scene showing two horses being led by two anthropomorphic figures. One horse has a geometric design depicted on his body.

Styles of animal petroglyphs have not been defined. Bison, bear, and horses can be recognized, but the majority of the animals depicted can be recognized only as quadrupedal animals. Two bird glyphs are present.

Animal tracks are depicted as petroglyphs and they predominate in the rock art sites in Montgomery county. Horsehoof prints, deer, pronghorn antelope, and bison tracks can be recognized. Two instances of bear paw figures are found at two sites in central Kansas.

Geometric designs are present at 23 of the 30 sites. These designs have not been categorized, but some circular or oval forms have been interpreted to be representations of female sexual organs (Horr and Johnson 1957), and a geometric design that resembles a bird track is found at eleven of the sites. Crosses, ladder-like designs, and opposed zig-zag lines are found, as well as more complex designs that resemble decorative motifs found in bead or quillwork patterns of Plains Indian tribes.

Straight lines occur in abundance at site 14KW301 in Kiowa county and they are found at other sites. Deeper grooves are also found that may result from toolmaking or tool sharpening.

Unique Petroglyphs

Three sites have examples of unique petroglyphs. Three reptilian creatures are depicted at site 140T4. These animals apparently have scaly bodies and standing triangular scales are shown on their backs. A similar glyph is present at the Cave Hollow site in Ellsworth county, and a reptilian glyph is found at site 14EW14.

The east panel at the Cave Hollow site also has a petroglyph of a large reclining figure. Its rectangular body has triangular elements within it and a series of large rectangular rays radiate from its "head."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

Pictograph Sites

The solitary pictograph site, 14CM305, is found in a cave in Comanche county. Spalling has resulted in damage to the majority of the pictographs there and the remnants cannot be interpreted. One anthropomorphic pictograph remains; however precipitating minerals are obscuring the figure. It has stylistic similarities to Style C petroglyphs.

Present Condition of Rock Art Sites

All of the rock art sites have suffered from the effects of weathering to some degree. More serious are the effects on these sites of modern day vandalism. The most common form of vandalism encountered is the superimposition of names and initials over petroglyphs. Other glyphs have been stained by ink or paint or damaged by gunfire. Some have been retouched and three instances are known of petroglyphs that have been removed.

The state of preservation of the sites included in the nomination was ranked from poor to good on the basis of the effects of weathering and vandalism. This ranking is indicated in the table below:

<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>
14CM305	14EW14	14EW303
14EW1	14EW17	14EW403
14OT4	14EW33	14GR320
14RU5	14EW304	14KW301
14RU10	14EW401	14MY1
	14EW404	14MY365
	14EW405	14MY1320
	14EW406	14MY1385
	14KW302	14RC10
	14LC306	14RU315
	14RC11	14RU316
	14RU313	14RU324
	14RU314	

The sites rated "poor" have suffered the most damage. The pictograph site, 14CM305, has one anthropomorphic figure remaining. It was included for this reason and the fact that it is the only recorded pictograph site in the state. The four petroglyph sites in this category, although damaged, have surviving glyphs and these sites are documented by photographs and slides taken in previous years. Using this photographic record it is possible to reconstruct on paper the scale and appearance of these sites when they were in a more

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

8

pristine condition. The sites rated "fair" have some instances of vandalism, but the majority of the glyphs present are untouched. Those rated good have no instances of vandalism and suffer only from the effects of weathering.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      Unknown      Builder/Architect      N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Summary

The sites included in this nomination provide the basis for undertaking a study of one or more topics of current interest in the analysis of North American rock art. These topics may be grouped under headings of chronological, technical and cultural interpretation. Only a fraction of the total number of petroglyphs and pictographs present in the state have been adequately described or interpreted. The similarities in style between the figures and designs present at these sites indicate there are affinities between sites within the state and also affinities between the rock art in Kansas and rock art in other regions of the Plains and in the Mississippi valley. The information present at the sites included in the nomination will make it possible to elucidate these affinities and put the rock art of Kansas in proper perspective.

The study of petroglyphs and pictographs can be divided into three topics: chronological interpretation or determining the ages of different figures or designs, technical interpretation or determining how petroglyphs and pictographs were made, and cultural interpretation or determining who created them and why (Swartz 1981). None of these topics has been adequately addressed in the study of Kansas rock art and the 30 sites included in this nomination provide the basis for undertaking a study of one or all of them.

#### Technical Interpretation

The sandstone outcrops on which the 29 petroglyph sites occur vary in degree of cementation and consequently in the density and hardness of the stone. No tests have been conducted at these sites to determine the physical properties of the rock on which they were placed, but some stones are weakly cemented. Deep grooves found at some sites are assumed to be tool sharpening marks and the distribution of these marks may be related to the distribution of hard sandstones and thus have a utilitarian explanation. Tools used to make petroglyphs are unknown, but pointed artifacts of wood, bone, stone and steel are assumed to have been used for incised glyphs. The cross sections of lines found in outlined petroglyphs can be profiled and compared to lines experimentally produced using artifacts made from different materials. This information may determine the types of artifacts used in creating individual glyphs—for example bone, stone, or steel—and supplement other lines of inquiry in classifying them.

An unfinished horse petroglyph at the Lookout Station site in Montgomery county partly documents the techniques—pecking and grinding—used to make these intaglio

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

petroglyphs.

The substance used in painting the pictograph at the Big Gyp cave site can be analysed to determine its composition and probable sources.

Cultural and Chronological Interpretation

Previous chronological interpretations of Kansas rock art have used petroglyph content and the cultural affiliations of petroglyphs to determine the time of their creation. Petroglyphs of horses, equestrian figures and guns are affiliated with the historic period (Horr & Johnson: 1957, Smith: 1949, Wedel 1959, Witty 1962). One-half of the petroglyph sites included in the nomination have glyphs of horses, horse tracks, equestrian figures or guns placing their creation in the period A. D. 1541 to A. D. 1870.

Howard (1964) and Wedel (1969) used historic and ethnographic sources to determine the cultural affiliation of anthropomorphic petroglyphs and consequently the period during which they were created. The sites included in the nomination have petroglyphs suitable for additional studies of this kind. Anthropomorphic figures with details of dress or decoration are found at sites 14EW14, 17, 33, 304, 401, 404, 140T4, 14RU5, 313, 315 and 324.

Persons affiliated with a number of tribes can be identified as potential creators of the rock art described in the nomination, in addition to the Wichita and Plains Apache groups identified by Howard and Wedel. Southeastern Kansas was first a hunting ground and then after 1820 home for the Osage, while the Plains Apache in western Kansas were followed in succession by Comanche, Kiowa and Kiowa-Apache bands. These were in turn displaced by the Cheyenne and Arapaho in the early 1800's. Pawnee hunting grounds included north-central and northwestern Kansas (Wedel 1959: 47-82).

A relative chronology of rock art styles has not been determined for petroglyphs and pictographs in Kansas as it has in other regions of the Plains, for example, Writing-On-Stone, Alberta (Keyser 1979) and the Black Hills in South Dakota (Sundstrom 1981). While instances of the superimposition of glyphs are not frequent at the sites included in the nomination, this type of analysis may provide a partial solution to the problem of establishing a relative chronology. Sites 14EW1, 14, 33, 401, 406, 14RC10, 14RU10, and 313 have instances of the superimposition of one line over another. Determining the relative sequence of the glyphs, in conjunction with their styles, can aid interpretation at sites where superimposition does not occur.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Questions relating to the original purpose of Kansas rock art or its role in aboriginal societies are difficult to answer. Wedel (1959:483) speculated the figures and designs he recorded may have been created for several reasons: for ceremonial or religious purposes, as mnemonic devices to record events, as a result of individual vision quests, or as a means of passing time. Researchers elsewhere in North America have suggested rock art may also be used for communication (Martineau 1973), for hunting magic (Heizer and Baumhoff 1959), and as an index to the geographical boundaries occupied by people with a common ideology (Shafer 1977).

The inventory of sites included within this nomination will make it possible to investigate these postulates and others suggested through analysis. For instance, the dominance of animal track petroglyphs in Montgomery county sites contrasts with the predominance of anthropomorphic petroglyphs found at sites in the central part of the state suggesting different motivations and different people were responsible for their creation.

Likewise the majority of the sites in the central part of the state are small in size and located in the headwaters of the major streams away from areas favored for habitation. The petroglyphs at these sites appear to have been the handiwork of at most a few persons. Larger sites such as the Russell site along the Saline river or the Indian Hill site along the Smoky Hill river appear to have been visited by many people over a period of time. These large and small sites may have had different functions and different motivations may have prompted their creation. A proper analysis of these sites using different hypotheses should provide reasonable explanations for their creation and functions.

The relationship between the rock art of Kansas and other areas in North America has been briefly described by Grant (1967) and Wellman (1979) in publications that survey North American rock art. The sites included in the nomination will enable more accurate comparative studies to be made in the future. A larger inventory of sites has been accumulated than was available to those authors and a more accurate description of the figures and designs present at each site is available. For example, Wellman describes areas in the Plains where concentrations of "v"-neck anthropomorphic glyphs occur, including the central part of Kansas. While these glyphs occur there, such as the west panel in area 792 at site 14RU5, that style is a minor one for the area. "V"-neck glyphs constitute less than 2% of the total number of anthropomorphic glyphs found in the region and are not a dominant style.

Affinities in technique, style, and subject matter are apparent between Kansas rock art and rock art elsewhere in the Plains and eastward into the Mississippi valley, but the significance of this has yet to be explored.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The artistic conventions that determined the form of individual pictographs and petroglyphs have not been described or analyzed. The different styles of anthropomorphic petroglyphs indicate the majority of the aboriginal artists made the head, trunk, and legs of their figures simply and that even less emphasis was placed on including indications of arms, hands, feet or facial features on their figures. This seems to indicate that a minimum number of elements were needed for some figures in order for them to be considered complete. The same rules may apply to representations of animals and geometric designs. For example petroglyph horses at the S & S Ranch site (14RU324) and the east panel at the Circle rock site (14RU10) are depicted with triangular legs and closed mouths, while horses depicted on the west panel at the Circle rock site are depicted with open mouths and straight legs. The latter horses resemble those present at Writing-on-Stone in southern Alberta, Canada (Keyser 1979). The similarities evident in these horse petroglyphs and the distribution of "v"-neck anthropomorphic figures in the northern and central Plains noted by Wellman (1979) indicate certain conventions may have a wide geographical distribution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Grant, Campbell

1967 Rock Art of The American Indian. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York.

Heizer, Robert F. and Martin A. Baumhoff

1959 Great Basin Petroglyphs and Prehistoric Game Trails. Science,  
129: 904-905.

1962 Prehistoric Rock Art of Nevada and Eastern California.  
University of California Press, Berkeley.

Horr, David and Alfred E. Johnson

1957 Petroglyphs of Central Kansas. Unpublished Ms, University of Kansas.

Howard, James H.

1964 Archeological Investigations In The Toronto Reservoir Area, Kansas.  
Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 189, River Basin Survey  
Paper 38: 319-370.

Janzen, Leon M.

1965 Early Ellsworth County Pictorial Art, Kansas Anthropological  
Association. Newsletter, 11:3.

Keyser, James D.

1979 The Plains Indian War Complex And The Rock Art Of Writing-On-Stone,  
Alberta, Canada, Journal of Field Archeology, Vol. 6.

Latta, Bruce F.

1947 Geology and Ground-Water Resources Of Kiowa County, Kansas. Kansas  
Geological Survey Bulletin 65, Lawrence.

Martineau, LaVan

1973 The Rocks Begin To Speak. K. C. Publications, Las Vegas.

Moore, Raymond C.

1949 Divisions Of The Pennsylvanian System In Kansas. Kansas Geological  
Survey Bulletin 83, Lawrence.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

O'Neill Brian

- 1980 The Kansas Petroglyph Survey. Unpublished Ms. Historic Preservation Department, Kansas State Historical Society.

Richards, Dorothy D.

- 1956 Petroglyphs of Kansas And Colorado. Kansas Anthropological Society Newsletter, 1:9.

Shafer, Harry J.

- 1977 Art and Territoriality in the Lower Pecos Archaic. Plains Anthropologist, 22:75.

Shoewe, Walter H.

- 1949 The Geography of Kansas, Part II, Physical Geography. Transactions of The Kansas Academy of Science, 52:3.

Smith, Carlyle S.

- 1949 Archeological Investigations in Ellsworth and Rice Counties, Kansas. American Antiquity, 14:4.

Sundstrom, Linea

- 1981 Prehistoric Rock Art of South Dakota. Archeological Research Center, Ft. Mead.

Swartz, B. K.

- 1981 A Survey of Petroglyph and Pictograph Research as Viewed From America. Occasional Papers of the American Committee to Advance the Study of Petroglyphs and Pictographs, Vol. 1. Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Wedel, Waldo R.

- 1959 An Introduction to Kansas Archeology. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 174, Washington, D.C.
- 1969 A Shield and Spear Petroglyph from Central Kansas; Some Possible Implications. Plains Anthropologist, 14:44.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

Wellman, Klaus

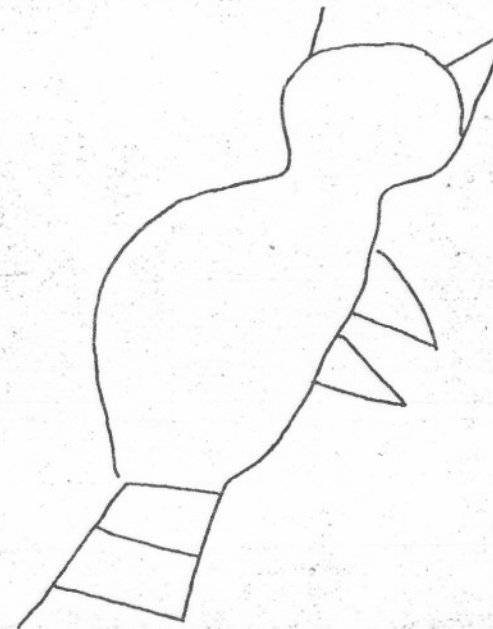
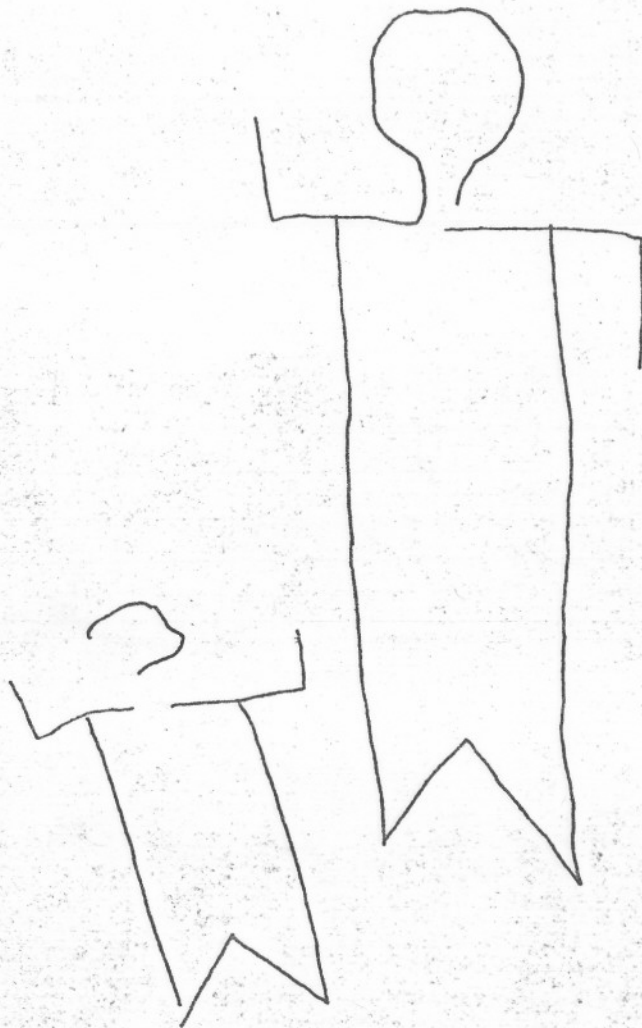
1979 A Survey of North American Indian Rock Art. Akademische Druck-und  
Verlagsanstalt, Graz, Austria.

Witty, Thomas A.

1962 Archeological Investigations of the Hell Creek Valley in the  
Wilson Reservoir, Russell and Lincoln Counties, Kansas. Kansas  
State Historical Society Anthropological Series, Number 1, Topeka.

Kansas Rock Art - Thematic Nomination

Style A anthropomorphic petroglyphs.



10 cm

14EW401

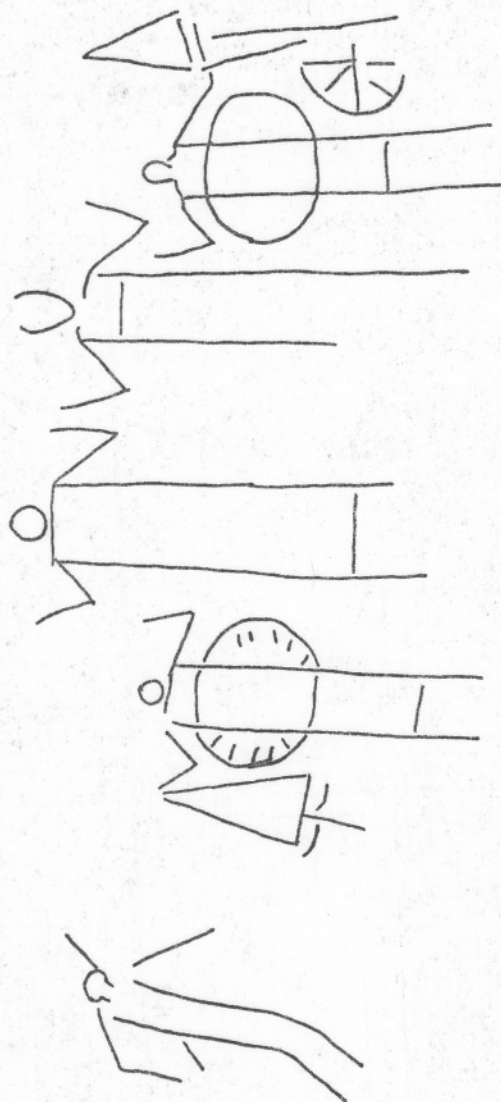
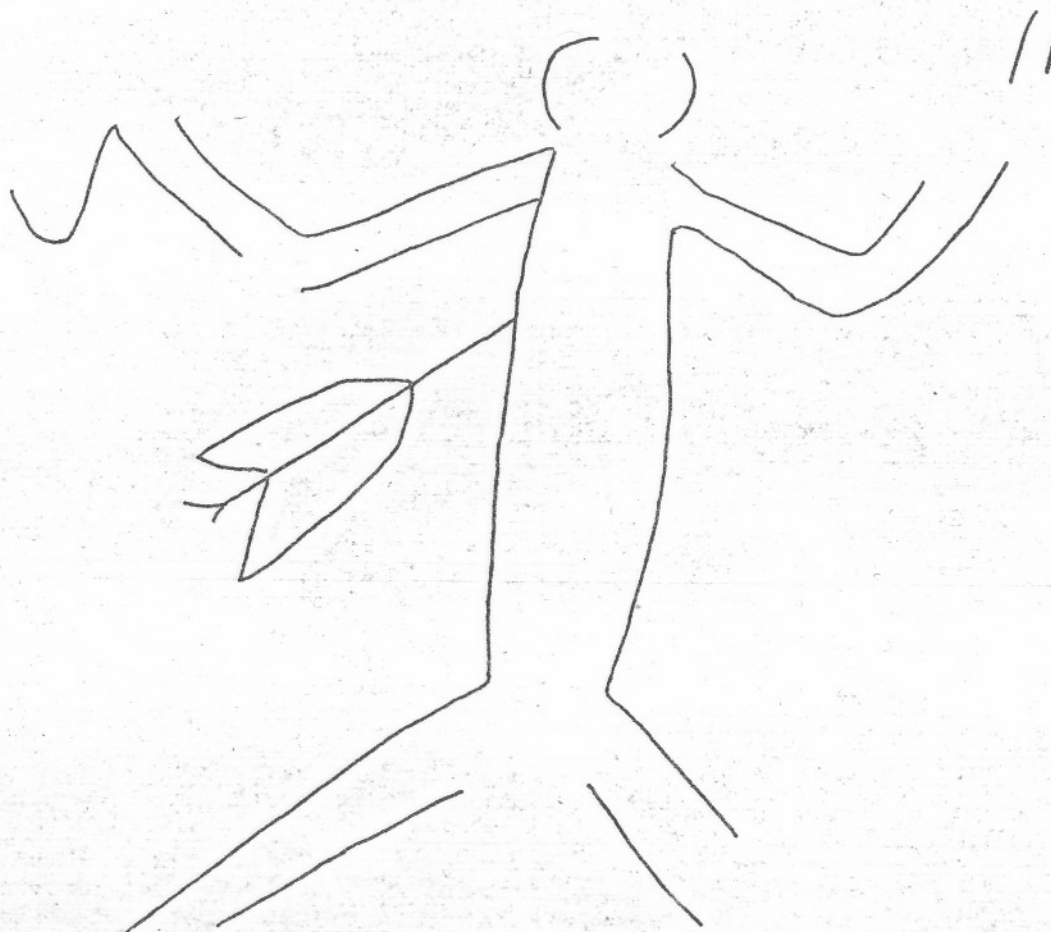


ILLUSTRATION ANTHROPOMORPHIC  
FOR BIC  
GLYPHS



Kansas Rock Art - Thematic  
Nomination

Style D anthropomorphic  
petroglyph.

14EW405

ANTHROPOMORPHIC GLYPH ON MAIN PANEL

20 cm



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name N/A

Quadrangle scale N/A

UMT References

A N/A                 
Zone Easting Northing

B N/A                 
Zone Easting Northing

C N/A               

D N/A               

E N/A               

F N/A               

G N/A               

H N/A               

Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state (see continuation sheet) code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martin Stein, Archeologist

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date March 27, 1982

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone 913-296-5294

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national      state      local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director & State Preservation Officer

date 5-14-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

<u>County</u>	<u>Code</u>
Comanche	033
Ellsworth	053
Greenwood	073
Kiowa	097
Lincoln	105
Montgomery	125
Ottawa	143
Rice	159
Russell	167

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 5 PAGE 1

Register of Deeds  
Comanche County Courthouse  
Coldwater, Kansas 67029

Register of Deeds  
Ellsworth County Courthouse  
Ellsworth, Kansas 67439

Register of Deeds  
Greenwood County Courthouse  
Eureka, Kansas 67045

Register of Deeds  
Kiowa County Courthouse  
Greensburg, Kansas 67054

Register of Deeds  
Lincoln County Courthouse  
Lincoln, Kansas 67455

Register of Deeds  
Montgomery County Courthouse  
Independence, Kansas 67301

Register of Deeds  
Ottawa County Courthouse  
Minneapolis, Kansas 67467

Register of Deeds  
Rice County Courthouse  
Lyons, Kansas 67554

Register of Deeds  
Russell County Courthouse  
Russell, Kansas 67665